

**SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) suicide among veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (in this section referred to as “PTSD”) is a serious problem; and

(2) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs should take into consideration the special needs of veterans suffering from PTSD and the special needs of elderly veterans who are at high risk for depression and experience high rates of suicide in developing and implementing the comprehensive program under this Act.

**SEC. 3. COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION AMONG VETERANS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION AMONG VETERANS.—Chapter 17 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“§ 1720F. Comprehensive program for suicide prevention among veterans**

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall develop and carry out a comprehensive program designed to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans incorporating the components described in this section.

“(b) STAFF EDUCATION.—In carrying out the comprehensive program under this section, the Secretary shall provide for mandatory training for appropriate staff and contractors (including all medical personnel) of the Department who interact with veterans. This training shall cover information appropriate to the duties being performed by such staff and contractors. The training shall include information on—

“(1) recognizing risk factors for suicide;

“(2) proper protocols for responding to crisis situations involving veterans who may be at high risk for suicide; and

“(3) best practices for suicide prevention.

“(c) HEALTH ASSESSMENTS OF VETERANS.—In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary shall direct that medical staff offer mental health in their overall health assessment when veterans seek medical care at a Department medical facility (including a center established under section 1712A of this title) and make referrals, at the request of the veteran concerned, to appropriate counseling and treatment programs for veterans who show signs or symptoms of mental health problems.

“(d) DESIGNATION OF SUICIDE PREVENTION COUNSELORS.—In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary shall designate a suicide prevention counselor at each Department medical facility other than centers established under section 1712A of this title. Each counselor shall work with local emergency rooms, police departments, mental health organizations, and veterans service organizations to engage in outreach to veterans and improve the coordination of mental health care to veterans.

“(e) BEST PRACTICES RESEARCH.—In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary shall provide for research on best practices for suicide prevention among veterans. Research shall be conducted under this subsection in consultation with the heads of the following entities:

“(1) The Department of Health and Human Services.

“(2) The National Institute of Mental Health.

“(3) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

“(4) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“(f) SEXUAL TRAUMA RESEARCH.—In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary shall provide for research on mental health care for veterans who have experienced sexual trauma while in military serv-

ice. The research design shall include consideration of veterans of a reserve component.

“(g) 24-HOUR MENTAL HEALTH CARE.—In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary shall provide for mental health care availability to veterans on a 24-hour basis.

“(h) HOTLINE.—In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary may provide for a toll-free hotline for veterans to be staffed by appropriately trained mental health personnel and available at all times.

“(i) OUTREACH AND EDUCATION FOR VETERANS AND FAMILIES.—In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary shall provide for outreach to and education for veterans and the families of veterans, with special emphasis on providing information to veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and the families of such veterans. Education to promote mental health shall include information designed to—

“(1) remove the stigma associated with mental illness;

“(2) encourage veterans to seek treatment and assistance for mental illness;

“(3) promote skills for coping with mental illness; and

“(4) help families of veterans with—

“(A) understanding issues arising from the readjustment of veterans to civilian life;

“(B) identifying signs and symptoms of mental illness; and

“(C) encouraging veterans to seek assistance for mental illness.

“(j) PEER SUPPORT COUNSELING PROGRAM.—(1) In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary may establish and carry out a peer support counseling program, under which veterans shall be permitted to volunteer as peer counselors—

“(A) to assist other veterans with issues related to mental health and readjustment; and

“(B) to conduct outreach to veterans and the families of veterans.

“(2) In carrying out the peer support counseling program under this subsection, the Secretary shall provide adequate training for peer counselors.

“(k) OTHER COMPONENTS.—In carrying out the comprehensive program, the Secretary may provide for other actions to reduce the incidence of suicide among veterans that the Secretary considers appropriate.”

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“1720F. Comprehensive program for suicide prevention among veterans.”

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit to Congress a report on the comprehensive program under section 1720F of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(2) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—The report shall contain the following:

(A) Information on the status of the implementation of such program.

(B) Information on the time line and costs for complete implementation of the program within two years.

(C) A plan for additional programs and activities designed to reduce the occurrence of suicide among veterans.

(D) Recommendations for further legislation or administrative action that the Secretary considers appropriate to improve suicide prevention programs within the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**NOTICE OF HEARING****COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, today the Committee on Foreign Relations held a hearing to review the Convention on the Law of the Sea and the Agreement Relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention (Treaty Doc. 103-39). The Committee heard testimony from representatives of the executive branch.

On Thursday, October 4, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in SD-419, the Committee will conduct another hearing on the Convention on the Law of the Sea. Witnesses from outside the government will present testimony. Interested parties who have not been invited to testify may submit written testimony until the close of business on October 5, 2007 by sending it electronically to [los@foreign.senate.gov](mailto:los@foreign.senate.gov) or by faxing it to the Committee's Executive Clerk, Gail Coppage, at (202) 228-3612.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET****COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES**

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on September 27, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., in open session to consider the following nominations: Admiral Gary Roughead, USN for reappointment to the grade of Admiral and to be Chief of Naval Operations; General William E. Ward, USA for reappointment to the grade of General and to be Commander, United States Africa Command; General Kevin P. Chilton, USAF for reappointment to the grade of General and to be Commander, United States Strategic Command; and Lieutenant General James N. Mattis, USMC to be General and to be Commander, United States Joint Forces Command and Supreme Allied Commander for Transformation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 27, 2007, at 10:30 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The hearing will focus on modernization and efforts to address the needs of the air traffic system and to improve the movement of aircraft and passengers. Subcommittee members will be provided the opportunity to review problems encountered by travelers during the summer 2007 travel season and to consider steps that can be taken to improve the air traffic system.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND  
TRANSPORTATION

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold a business meeting during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 27, 2007, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building.

During the Executive Session, Committee members will markup the following agenda items: S. 1578, Ballast Water Management Act of 2007; S. 1889, Railroad Safety Enhancement Act of 2007; S. 1453, Internet Tax Freedom Act (ITFA) Extension Act of 2007; S. 1965, Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act; S.J. Res. 17, a joint resolution directing the United States to initiate international discussions and take necessary steps with other Nations to negotiate an agreement for managing migratory and transboundary fish stocks in the Arctic Ocean; S. Con. Res. 39, a concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of a world day of remembrance for road crash victims; Nominations for Promotion in the United States Coast Guard (PN 878, PN 946, PN 947, and PN 948).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 27, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on hard rock mining on Federal lands.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 27, 2007, at 10 a.m., in room SD-215 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, to hear testimony on the "Border Insecurity, Take Three: Open and Unmonitored".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 27, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on the Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Thursday, September 27, 2007, at 9 a.m. in room 628 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a

business meeting to consider pending business, to be followed immediately by an oversight hearing on the prevalence of violence against Indian women.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate in order to conduct a markup on Thursday, September 27, 2007, at 10 a.m. in the Dirksen Senate Office Building room 226.

*Agenda:*

I. Bills: S. 1267, Free Flow of Information Act of 2007, (Lugar, Dodd, Graham), S. 2035, Free Flow of Information Act of 2007, (Specter, Schumer).

S.J. Res. 13, Joint resolution granting consent to the International Emergency Management Assistance Memorandum of Understanding, (Leahy, Snowe, Kennedy, Whitehouse), S. 980, Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act of 2007, (Feinstein, Sessions, Biden).

II. Resolutions: S. Con. Res. 45, commending the Ed Block Courage Award Foundation for its work in aiding children and families affected by child abuse, and designating November 2007 as National Courage Month, (Cardin, Cornyn).

S. Res. 258, recognizing the historical and educational significance of the Atlantic Freedom Tour of the Freedom Schooner Amistad, and expressing the sense of the Senate that preserving the legacy of the Amistad story is important in promoting multicultural dialogue, education, and cooperation, (Dodd).

III. Nominations: James Russell Dedrick to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for the Committee on Veterans' Affairs to be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 27, 2007, in order to conduct a hearing on the Nomination of Paul J. Hutter to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs. The committee will meet in room 562 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building, at 9:30 a.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION  
POLICY AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights, be authorized conduct a hearing entitled "An Examination of the Google-DoubleClick Merger and the Online Advertising Industry: What are the Risks for Competition and Privacy?" on Thursday, September 27, 2007, at 2 p.m.

in the Dirksen Senate Office Building room 226.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MAN-  
AGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, FED-  
ERAL SERVICES AND INTERNATIONAL SECUR-  
ITY

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs' Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services and International Security be authorized to meet on Thursday, September 27, 2007, at 3:30 p.m. in order to conduct a hearing entitled "Cost Effective Air-lift in the 21st Century".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on National Parks of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 27, 2007, at 2:30 p.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on the following bills: S. 128, to amend the Cache La Poudre River Corridor Act to designate a new management entity, make certain technical and conforming amendments, enhance private property protections, and for other purposes; S. 148, to establish the Paterson Great Falls National Park in the State of New Jersey, and for other purposes; S. 189, to decrease the matching funds requirement and authorize additional appropriations for Keweenaw National Historical Park in the State of Michigan; S. 697, to establish the Steel Industry National Historic Site in the State of Pennsylvania; S. 867, to adjust the boundary of Lowell National Historical Park, and for other purposes; S. 1039, a bill to extend the authorization for the Coastal Heritage Trail in the State of New Jersey; S. 1341, to provide for the exchange of certain Bureau of Land Management land in Pima County, Arizona, and for other purposes; S. 1476, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study of the Tule Lake Segregation Center in Modoc County, California, to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing a unit of the National Park System; S. 1709 and H.R. 1239, to amend the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act of 1998 to provide additional staff and oversight of funds to carry out the Act, and for other purposes; S. 1808, to authorize the exchange of certain land in Denali National Park in the State of Alaska; S. 1969, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of designating Estate Grange and other sites related to Alexander Hamilton's life on the island of St. Croix in the

U.S. Virgin Islands as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Christopher Caple and Monica Thurmond from Senator BILL NELSON's staff and David Pozen of my staff be accorded the privileges of the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BAUCUS. I ask unanimous consent that George Serletis, Mollie Lane, Tim Kehrer, Sam Anderson, Amanda Mitchell, and Travis Cossitt of my Finance Committee staff be granted the privilege of the floor for the remainder of the floor debate on the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF STEPHEN JOEL TRACHTENBERG AS PRESIDENT OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

#### RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE 20 YEARS OF SERVICE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF DR. JAMES HADLEY BILLINGTON AS LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 210 and S. Res. 336, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolutions by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 210) honoring the accomplishments of Stephen Joel Trachtenberg as president of the George Washington University in Washington, DC, in recognition of his upcoming retirement in July 2007.

A resolution (S. Res. 336) recognizing and honoring the 20 years of service and contributions of Dr. James Hadley Billington as Librarian of Congress.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions (S. Res. 210 and S. Res. 336) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

The resolutions, with their preambles, read as follows:

#### S. RES. 210

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg has served since 1988 as the 15th president of The George Washington University;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg served as the third president of the University of Hartford in Hartford, Connecticut, from 1977 to 1988;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, a native of Brooklyn, New York, was an accomplished author, scholar, and educator, and has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues, peers, and students;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg earned a bachelor of arts degree from Columbia University in 1959, a juris doctor degree from Yale University in 1962, and a master of public administration degree from Harvard University in 1966;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg was selected as a Winston Churchill Traveling Fellow for study in Oxford, England, in 1968;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg was celebrated by the Connecticut Region of Haddassah with the Myrtle Wreath Award in 1982, was presented with The Mt. Scopus Award from Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1984, and received the Human Relations Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews in 1987;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg was honored with the Distinguished Public Service Award from the Connecticut Bar Association in 1988, and was recognized by the Hartford branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People for his contributions to the education of minority students;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg received the International Salute Award in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1992, and the Hannah G. Solomon Award from the National Council of Jewish Women;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg was awarded the John Jay Award for Outstanding Professional Achievement in 1995 by Columbia University, the Newcomen Society Award, and the Spirit of Democracy Award from the American Jewish Congress;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg received an honorary doctor of medicine degree from the Odessa State Medical University in Ukraine in 1996, the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of University Administrators, and the B'nai B'rith Humanitarian Award;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg received the Department of State Secretary's Open Forum Distinguished Public Service Award in 1997, and the Grand Cross, the highest honor of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry;

Whereas "Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Day" was declared by resolution of the Council of the District of Columbia on January 22, 1998, in honor of his commitments to minority students, scholarship programs, public school partnerships, and community service;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg was honored by Boston University in 1999, where he previously served as a vice president and as an academic dean, with an honorary doctor of humane letters degree;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg received the Tree of Life Award from the Jewish National Fund;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg was named a Washingtonian of the Year 2000 by Washingtonian Magazine, was decorated as a Grand Officer Du Wissam Al Alaoui by King Mohammed VI of Morocco in 2000, and was awarded the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, Knight Grand Cross for Distinguished Service to Freemasonry and Humanity;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg received honorary doctor of laws degrees from Southern Connecticut State University, the University of New Haven, Mount Vernon College, and Richmond College in London;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg was named a Fellow of the American Academy of

Arts and Sciences, and was awarded the Department of the Treasury's Medal of Merit;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg received the Humanitarian Award from the Albert B. Sabin Institute, and the District of Columbia Business Leader of the Year Award from the District of Columbia Chamber of Commerce;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg performed public service as an attorney with the Atomic Energy Commission, as an aide to former Indiana Representative John Brademas, and as a special assistant at the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg authored "Reflections on Higher Education", published in 2002, "Thinking Out Loud", published in 1998, and "Speaking His Mind", published in 1994;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg serves on the boards of the Chief of Naval Operations Executive Panel and the International Association of University Presidents, and as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, as president of The George Washington University, opened new buildings for the School of Business and the Elliott School of International Affairs and a new hospital, and added the Mount Vernon Campus, formerly the Mount Vernon College for Women, to the university;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, as president of The George Washington University, created 5 new schools, the School of Public Health and Health Services, the School of Public Policy and Public Administration, the College of Professional Studies, the Graduate School of Political Management, and the School of Media and Public Affairs;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, as president of The George Washington University, "reinvented" the university's position and positive reputation as Washington, DC's center of scholarship;

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg will continue, after retiring as the third-longest-serving president of The George Washington University, as University Professor of Public Service and President Emeritus; and

Whereas Stephen Joel Trachtenberg and his wife, Francine Zorn Trachtenberg, have 2 sons, Adam and Ben: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) honors and salutes the accomplishments of Stephen Joel Trachtenberg and recognizes his deeds throughout his 19 years of service as president of The George Washington University in Washington, DC;

(2) recognizes the accomplishments and achievements of Stephen Joel Trachtenberg in higher education, as an author, as an attorney, and as a public official; and

(3) based upon his service, extends its appreciation to Stephen Joel Trachtenberg in recognition of his retirement as president of The George Washington University.

#### S. RES. 336

Whereas Dr. James H. Billington was nominated to be the 13th Librarian of Congress by President Ronald Reagan in 1987, and was confirmed by the Senate and sworn in as Librarian of Congress on September 14, 1987;

Whereas the world renowned collections of the Library of Congress, the largest and most comprehensive in history, have grown by almost 50,000,000 items since Dr. Billington became Librarian, totaling more than 135,000,000 today;

Whereas, during Dr. Billington's tenure, the Library of Congress modernized its collection through the creation of the National Digital Library Program, the American Memory program, THOMAS, and the World Digital Library;